CHAPTER 17

FORCE PROTECTION (REAR OPERATIONS)

References

FM 3, Operations, 14 June 2001

FM 54-30, 17 June 1993

FM 54-40, Area Support Group, 3 October 1995

FM 63-3, Corps Support Command, 30 September 1993

FM 71-100, Division Operations, 28 August 1996

FM 100-7, Decisive Force: The Army in Theater Operations, 31 May 1995

FM 100-15, Corps Operations, 29 October 1996

FM 100-16, Army Operational Support, 31 May 1995

Objectives

- Describe Rear Area Security operations from the theater area to the brigade area.

- Assess the rear area security capabilities in the division, corps, and theater structures.

Background

Enemy forces may threaten the rear areas during the establishment of the initial lodgment and later on throughout operations in the theater. In the first case, close and rear operations overlap due to the necessity to protect the buildup of combat power. In the second case, deep, close, and rear operations may not be contiguous. When this situation occurs, rear operations must retain the initiative and deny freedom of action to the enemy, even if combat forces are not available. A combination of passive and active defensive measures can best accomplish this. Commanders assess threat capabilities, decide where risk will be accepted, and then assign the units necessary to protect and sustain the force. Unity of command facilitates this process. (See Figure 17-1.)

Rear operations protect the force and sustain combat operations. Successful rear operations allow commanders freedom of action by preventing disruption of C2, fire support, logistical support, and movement of reserves. Destroying or neutralizing enemy deep battle forces achieves this goal.

Rear operations assist in providing freedom of action and continuity of operations, logistics, and battle command. **Their primary purposes are to sustain the current close and deep fights and to posture the force for future operations**. At the operational level, rear operations support current operations and posture the force for the next phase of the major operation or campaign. At the tactical level, they enhance the

commander's ability to influence the tempo of combat, helping him take advantage of any opportunity without delay. At either level, rear areas may not be contiguous with forward areas, complicating both protection for rear area forces and sustainment of forces fighting close operations.

While the **Main Command Post** (Main CP) synchronizes the corps' close and deep operations, it is **the Rear CP's responsibility to plan and integrate all rear area operations**.

Rear operations consist of four functional areas:

- Terrain management,

- Security,

- Sustainment, and

- Movements.

The Rear CP develops a comprehensive rear operations concept that supports the commander's concept and intent. The corps must be able to conduct the **full spectrum of rear operations in conventional and NBC environments**.

REAR AREA OPERATIONS

XXXX	XXX	XX	X	II
COMMZ	CORPS	DIVISION	BRIGADE	BATTALION/ SQUADRON
JRAC (nominated by CINC)	*DEPUTY CORPS CDR*	*ADC-S*	FSB / BSA CDR	BN CO / CO CDR
ASC ROC	CORPS ROC @ CORPS REAR CP	DIV ROC @ REAR CP / DISCOM CP	BCOC	BDOC/BCOC
TSC ROC				
ASG ROC	CSG RAOC		REGIMENT	
BDOC/BCOC	BDOC/BCOC	BDOC/BCOC	BCOC: SPT SQDN CDR/RSA	
MPs/HNS	MPs	MPs		
TCF/HNS	TCF	TCF		

Figure 17-1. This table indicates the various ROC and other elements, which are involved in Rear Operations throughout the area of operations.

Protection in the Theater of Operations

The Division

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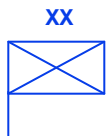
In the **division area**, the **Assistant Division Commander for Support (ADC-S)** is responsible for rear area operations. The **Division Rear Operations Center (ROC),** part of the Division Rear Operations Cell of the Rear CP, coordinates all rear area operations for the ADC-S. As part of the rear command post, the ROC is a 19-person Reserve Component (RC) unit that augments the division's rear operations cell. This augmentation results in a fully capable 24-hour division rear command post. As part of the rear command post (CP) staff, the ROC is usually located in the DISCOM HQ/CP area. The division ROC section is authorized by TOE, **but it is not a separate, stand-alone organization**. The ROC will coordinate rear area operations with **bases** and **base clusters** throughout the division rear area. Each base has a **Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC)** to coordinate its security operations. Each base cluster has a **Base Cluster Operations Center (BCOC)** to coordinate its security operations. BDOCs and BCOCs are not TOE-authorized sections, but they are normally operated "out of hide" within the unit's S-3 section.

The Corps Area

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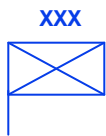
In the **corps area**, the **Deputy Corps Commander is the Rear Operations Commander** and is responsible for corps rear area operations. The Corps Rear Operations Center (ROC) coordinates all rear operations for the Deputy Corps Commander. As part of the rear command post, the ROC is a 49-person, stand-alone TOE Reserve Component (RC) unit that augments the corps's rear operations cell. This augmentation results in a fully capable 24-hour corps rear command post. In the Corps Rear Only, the ROC coordinates rear operations security through subordinate **Rear Area Operations Centers (RAOCs).** The RAOCs are a 24-person RC unit and are stand-alone organizations, serving as subordinate command posts to the Corps Rear CP and ROC. Normally RAOCs collocate with a Corps Support Group or and MP Battalion for life support. The bases and base clusters operating in the corps rear will coordinate rear security operations through their respective RAOCs. These RAOC units de-conflict Rear Area Operations coordination and management in the Corps Rear Area. RAOCs are only found in the Corps rear Area.

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The Communications Zone (COMMZ)

The COMMZ extends from the rear of the CZ back through the rear of the theater to connect with the theater base. It includes a joint rear area to facilitate protection and operation of installations and forces that provide CS and/or CSS to combat operations. The combatant commander may designate one of several people (ASCC, member of Joint Forces Command (JFC) staff, or any commander subordinate to the JFC) to serve as the **Joint Rear Area Coordinator** (JRAC), giving him responsibility for coordinating and maintaining the overall security of the **Joint Rear Area** (JRA) as directed. The JRAC is a critical link in coordinating security, establishing intelligence and counterintelligence support, and establishing communications with all forces in the JRA. The JRAC creates a secure environment in the JRA to facilitate sustainment, host nation

support (HNS), infrastructure development, and joint force movements. He is also responsible for providing intelligence support for the JRA and establishing sufficient communications to accomplish his tasks, planning for the reality that the JRA will not be contiguous with the CZ.

One task that the JRAC must not overlook is his requirement to coordinate closely with the **Area Air Defense Commander** (AADC) who has operational control of the theater army air defense assets. This coordination is essential because air defense at the operational level is concerned primarily with protecting the theater base with its critical points and facilities--ports, key bridges, operational C2 facilities--in the COMMZ and forces moving through the COMMZ.

The JRA provides essential support to joint operations. Successful rear security operations are critical in this area since it contains the LOC, establishments for supply and evacuation, and agencies required for immediate support and maintenance of field forces. **The combatant commander will select the JRAC from the senior officers available in the JRA** including all services. Within the ASC, this task may fall upon the ASCC, the TSCC or any other officer deemed suitable by the CINC.

The Levels of Threat

The threat to the theater base and COMMZ ranges from individual acts of sabotage and the insertion of battalion-size or larger forces, to air and missile attacks. Large-scale enemy attacks may require the commitment of US reserve forces, combat units from forward areas, or HN or allied resources. The potential magnitude of the threat dictates that US forces be trained to cope with threat forces when and where they attempt to interrupt COMMZ operations. They must use every appropriate active and passive measure for defense against detection from the air, attack from the ground, and compromise of their defense systems.

Three levels of response to threat activities serve as a guide for planning rear operations security. Rather than focusing on the size or type of threat, **these levels focus on the nature of friendly actions needed to counter the threat**. The threats listed here provide typical examples of the types of threats that can be expected.

- **Level I**--Those threats that can be defeated by base or base cluster self-defense measures.

- **Level II**--Those threats that are beyond the base or base cluster self-defense measures but can be defeated by initial response forces. Bases and base clusters are able to delay Level II threats until arrival of response forces.

- **Level III**--Those threats that will probably target several friendly rear elements as part of a larger, coordinated effort, rather than individual, separate entities requiring a **Tactical Combat Force (TCF)** to defeat them.

Battle Command for Rear Operations

Rear operations, which consist of activities to assure freedom of maneuver and continuity of operations, include four functions: security, terrain management, sustainment, and movement. All rear operations functions are interrelated. When planning or conducting one function, commanders and staffs must consider all the other functions, thus synchronizing rear operations. This synchronization is the ROC's responsibility.

The ROC's most important contribution to COMMZ/JRA security is the establishment and coordination of base defense plans. The ROC coordinates base siting with the technical logistics chain of command and then organizes these bases into base clusters to provide mutual support. The rear operations commander, with ROC recommendation, designates base and base cluster commanders to coordinate defensive plans. Sometimes the ROC identifies single bases that are isolated, such as a specialized fixed facility, or clearly independent, such as an air base, and treats them as separate base clusters.

The Theater Support Command's (TSC's) rear operations center, a separate unit, is an element of the **security plans and operations** (SPO) staff, serves as the primary staff element for security operations. **The Rear Operations Branch (ROB) has staff supervision for the planning and coordination agency for the TSC for security operations. In the COMMZ rear operations are controlled on an area basis. The ASG is the most visible area command**. By virtue of its having real estate allocation as a mission responsibility, the ASG is the most logical command to control rear operations. (See FM 54-40 Chapter 8 for more details).

Subordinate support headquarters have the responsibility for coordinating base and base cluster defense to ensure protection from Level I and II threats. In his assigned portion of the rear area, the subordinate support commander is responsible for the full range of rear operations as defined by the TSC and subject to applicable HN laws and agreements.

The subordinate support headquarters commander must ensure that all bases/base clusters in his AOR/AO are trained and prepared for involvement in rear operations. The execution of responsibilities requires the utmost in cooperation and coordination between the subordinate logistics headquarters and tenants. The SPO is the subordinate logistics headquarters commander's chief staff for rear operations planning and execution. The subordinate logistics headquarters ROC is the SPO's primary staff element for conducting security operations and terrain management.

Securing the Rear Area

Security

Security for rear operations is vital to the success of force projection operations. Key tasks are--

- Coordinating base/base cluster defense plans.

- Collecting, integrating, analyzing, and disseminating timely and accurate intelligence.

- Aggressively patrolling, in coordination with the HN, to intercept and defeat small threat forces before they close on their objective.

- Rapidly deploying forces sufficient to counter the enemy intrusion.

Bases and Base Clusters

The **base** and **base cluster** form the basic building block for planning, coordinating, and executing base defense operations. The ROC, in coordination with the SPO, organizes units occupying the subordinate logistics headquarters AOR into base clusters. He does this based on the SPO's requirements and recommendations for placement.

The ROC recommends to the SPO, the appointment of **Base Cluster Commanders from units in the cluster**. Normally, the base cluster commander is the senior commander in the base cluster. The base cluster commander forms a **Base Cluster Operations Center (BCOC)** from his own staff and available base assets.

Bases are located within the base cluster. A base is normally a single-service unit or a joint-service base. A joint-service base is either one in which one service has primary interest or two or more services have co-equal interests. The Base Cluster, in coordination with ROC, appoints the base commanders. Base commanders also form **Base Defense Operations Centers (BDOC)**. A good example of notional bases and base clusters can be found in FM 100-16 (page 15-3).

Individual Unit Commanders

The commanders of units at a base are responsible for--

- Participating in the preparation of base defense planning.

- Providing, staff, and operating base defense facilities in accordance with base defense plans.

- Conducting individual and unit training to ensure forces' readiness to perform their assigned tasks in defense of the base.

- Providing appropriate facilities and essential personnel for the BDOC and the base commander.

- Providing liaison personnel to advise the base commander on matters peculiar to their units.

- Providing for internal security of the base.

- Providing C3 systems, including common-user communications within the command.

Base Commander

The base commander is responsible for base security and defense. All forces assigned to the base are **under OPCON** for base defense purposes. The base commander's responsibilities for base defense include--

- Establishing a BDOC from available base assets to serve as the base's tactical operations center and focal point for security and defense. The BDOC will assist with the planning, direction, coordination, integration, and control of base defense efforts.

- Establishing an alternate BDOC from base resources or, if base assets are not available, designating a headquarters element from units dedicated to the base for its local defense.

- Planning for the inclusion of transient units by ensuring base defense plans include provisions for augmenting the regularly assigned base defense forces present at the base during periods of threat.

Base Cluster Commander

The base cluster commander is responsible for securing his base, coordinating the defense of bases within his base cluster, and integrating base defense plans into a base cluster defense plan. His specific responsibilities include--

- Establishing a BCOC from his own staff and available base or base cluster assets to serve as the base cluster's tactical operations center and focal point for planning, directing, coordinating, integrating, and controlling base cluster defense activities.

- Providing appropriate facilities and housing for necessary liaison personnel from bases from within the cluster.

Response Forces

The TSC ROC may designate response forces, **normally MP**, to respond to bases or base clusters **under Level II/III threat**. The size of the response force is based on the current **intelligence preparation of the battlefield** (IPB) and the commander's risk assessment. Once designated as a response force, MP, along with supported ROCs and base or base clusters, will conduct a joint IPB, review bases and base cluster defense plans, exchange signal operations instructions, and identify response forces necessary to counter likely enemy activities.

The TSC Commander's concept and intent, established protection priorities, and the COMMZ IPB drive the response planning. Base defense and response forces

incorporate this information into their own IPB and, in coordination with the senior ROCs, position themselves where they can best respond to major enemy incursions. Should response forces encounter or engage enemy forces beyond their ability to defeat, they will immediately notify the appropriate ROC and maintain contact with the enemy until a tactical combat force can be committed.

Tactical Combat Forces (TCF)

When the threat in the rear area exceeds response force capabilities, the ROC commander requests the commitment of a tactical combat force from the ASCC. **The tactical combat force usually remains under OPCON of the ASCC**, although lower level commanders (TSC, subordinate support headquarters) may be granted authority in special circumstances. Tactical combat forces are obtained from the following:

- Tactical units passing through the rear area to the forward-deployed force.

- Units assigned or reconstituted in the rear area. The ASCC may have units assigned to rear security operations, including an MP brigade Task Force based on METT-TC.

- Tactical units of other service components or allies within the ASCC under OPCON of the senior army commander.

- Tactical units from forward-deployed elements.

- A task-organized force from assets disembarking in the theater.

The TCF is usually a combined arms organization. TSC ROCs may attach or assign liaison teams to this tactical unit for security missions. The tactical combat force may have attached or DS artillery or attack helicopters and be task-organized by the tactical commander.

The assigned TCF Commander frequently uses the ROC to assist in coordinating rear security operations. The size and composition of the TCF will depend upon METT-TC. The senior army commander provides the TCF Commander with an operational plan that identifies all units under his OPCON and the boundaries of the TCF tactical AO.

The TCF coordinates logistics support from support assets in the rear area through the ROC. Upon completion of the mission, the TCF will normally return to its parent unit or reconsolidates in the rear area.

The ROC will assist the tactical combat force commander in completing all necessary coordination for the security operation. The MCA should identify and control routes, and available area MP should assist in the moves of the tactical combat force into position. When required, local security forces will brief the tactical combat force commander on the current situation.

If the HNS is viable and has retained responsibility for external base/base cluster security operations, the TSC or subordinate logistics headquarters ROC will coordinate with HNS for tactical combat force requirements. The HN will assign its tactical combat

force to a tactical area. Depending on existing agreements, US forces within the area may also be placed under OPCON of the HN tactical combat forces.

Summary

In the **COMMZ**, **bases** and **base clusters** coordinate rear area operations with the ASG ROCs who, in turn, coordinate with the JRAC . The TSC ROC/JRAC is also responsible for coordinating host nation security support for rear operations. The **TSC commander**, responsible for rear area operations in the COMMZ, has overall responsibility for implementing HNS security plans and policies **for the TSC area of responsibility**.

The **ASCC** directs rear security through the **Army Service Component Rear Operations Center (ASCROC) or the Joint Rear Area Coordinator (JRAC)** if designated by the CINC. The ASCC is linked with established subordinate ROCs in the COMMZ via a communications network, which interfaces with the civil affairs (CA) teams at most host nation (HN) command levels. The ASCC, plus the TSC and his subordinate ASGs, are the key element responsible for identifying and developing the methods and procedures needed to coordinate effective HNS for rear security operations.

In the theater, corps, and division rear areas,

- **Each Base and Base Cluster is responsible for defending against all Level I threats** within its area.

- **Military Police (MP) usually provide the initial response force to defend against Level II threats** beyond the capability of local base or base cluster defense forces.

- **BDOC and BCOC are usually formed out of hide.**

In the Division area,

- The G-3 will designate a **Tactical Combat Force (TCF),** usually a combat maneuver unit held in reserve, **to respond to Level III threats** in the division rear area.

- The Division commander will determine if a TCF will be committed.

- Once committed, the TCF falls under **OPCON of the ADC-S**.

In the Corps Rear Area,

- The Corps G-3 will designate a TCF, usually from the corps combat forces held in reserve, to respond to Level III threats in the corps rear area.

- The Corps commander will determine if a TCF will be committed.

- Once committed, the TCF falls under **OPCON** of the **Rear Operations Commander**.

In the Theater Area,

- The **ASC ROC may designate a TCF**, usually from maneuver forces awaiting movement forward to the combat zone, for Level III threats in the COMMZ.

- The ASC or TSC commander will determine if a TCF will be committed.

- Once committed, the TCF falls under **OPCON** of the **ASC or TSC Commander**.

- However, because of the size of the COMMZ and the large number of civilians located close to and around military facilities, the **ASC ROC (**or the JRAC if designated by the CINC**) will normally coordinate for HNS security forces to handle most Level II and all Level III threats in the COMMZ.**

Chapter 17: Force Protection
Homework Assignment

Manuals Required to Complete Homework: Theater Logistics Handbook, FM 100-16, FM 90-23 (reference book), FM 63-2, FM 63-20, FM 63-21 and FM 54-30.

1. List and briefly define the three levels of threat. Ref: FM 100-16.

    _____

    _____

    _____

2. The _____ is normally responsible for protecting the entire COMMZ, ensuring freedom of movement of all forces, and ensuring that all efforts in the COMMZ are synchronized to support the theater campaign plan. Ref: FM 100-16.

3. What is the primary difference in the roles of the TSC and the ASG in rear operations security? Ref: FM 100-16.

    TSC:

    _____
    _____

    ASG:

    _____
    _____

4. The _____ is the key element for identifying and developing the methods and procedures needed to coordinate effective use of HNS for rear security operations. Ref: FM 100-16.

5. The ASCC delegates authority for detailed implementation of HNS plans and policies to the _____. Ref: FM 100-16.

6. Describe the key activities of each rear area security organization. Ref: FM 100-16.

BDOC:

_____
_____
_____

BCOC:

_____
_____
_____

7. The _____ coordinates the joint
    attack of any Level III threat penetrating the theater rear. Ref: FM 100-16.

8. What level of threat should indirect fires be used against? Ref: FM 100-16.

        _____

9. Define area damage control. Ref: FM 100-16.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

10. What is a base? Ref: FM 63-2.

_____
_____
_____

11. What is a base cluster? Ref: FM 63-2.

12. Normally, the BSA is considered a base cluster with the
    _____ _____ as the base cluster
    commander. Ref: FM 63-20.

13. Who is normally the base cluster commander for MSB units in the division support area, and from where does he/she primarily obtain assets to establish a base cluster operations center? Ref: FM 63-21.

_____

_____

14. Due to the expanse of the corps area, the corps rear CP operations cell delegates execution of rear operations to _____

_____.

Ref: FM 54-30

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